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ABSTRACT

This booklet provides information on the Association of Community Tribal Schools (ACTS) (South Dakota). The mission of ACTS is to assist community tribal schools in preparing students for lifelong learning and for their role in strengthening and perpetuating traditional tribal societies. Specifically, ACTS promotes the advancement of Indian controlled quality education and expansion of educational opportunities, raises funds for educational advancement, and promotes participation in policy making. In March 1982, 87 delegates from Indian controlled schools and tribal education programs attended an organizational conference that elected a board of directors and established bylaws and objectives for the association. Since that time ACTS has had 14 national conferences and numerous meetings to provide school board training and address educational improvement. Members include 30 schools from various states. ACTS represents and provides services to Indian controlled contract and grant schools by holding an annual national conference for school board training; holding regional conferences on important legislation or issues; testifying before Congressional committees on appropriations, laws, and organization and management of Office of Indian Education Programs; and coordinating with other Indian groups to provide unified input on Indian education. Currently ACTS is providing technical assistance to Congressional committees on reauthorization and appropriations, providing representation on the Bureau Effective Schools Team and Goals 2000 panels, and planning a national conference on tribal accreditation and certification. Includes information on ACTS governance and administration, including the board of directors, budget for fiscal year 1994, 5-year goals for the association, and funding priorities. (LP)

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ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY TRIBAL SCHOOLS

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Association of Community Tribal Schools

Organizational Information Packet

Mission and Purposes

History

Membership

Accomplishments

Governance and Administration

Board of Directors

Budget FY 94

5 Year Goals

Funding Priorities

References

IRS 501 (c) 3 Letter

Fiscal Statement

Association of Community Tribal Schools
616 4th Ave. W.
Sisseton, SD 57262
605/698-3112
Dr. Roger Bordeaux, Executive Director

MISSION

To assist community Tribal schools toward their mission of ensuring that when students complete their schools they are prepared for lifelong learning and that these students will strengthen and perpetuate traditional tribal societies.

PURPOSES

To

- promote the advancement of Indian controlled quality education
- expand educational opportunities
- solicit and contribute funds for educational advancement
- advise local education institutions as a representative assembly of parents, students and reservation community people
- promote participation in policy making decisions relating to the education of Indians
- plan for the Indian self-determination of quality education policy, administration and programs
- provide advice, support funds and other assistance to educational institutions operated or to be operated by a tribal government or entity
- furnish management, administrative and other training to persons to enable them to operate and administer education institutions
- encourage Indians to organize, manage and operate education institutions
- obtain information, conduct research and studies, and publish reports on any matters that further the expansion of education institutions operated by Indians
- eliminate prejudice and foster the establishment of constructive relationships between the educational and financial community and Indian people

History

The Association of Community Tribal Schools was incorporated in February 1982 as the Association of Contract/Tribal Schools. The organizers were representatives from schools controlled by Indian communities under PL 93-638 which allowed Tribes and communities to contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to run schools. The primary purpose was to "promote the advancement of Indian controlled quality education."

Until 1970 there was little or no input from Indian communities into the operation of Bureau of Indian Affairs Schools. At that time "advisory" school boards were set up. Also in the late 60's and early 70's initial efforts at Indian control began at schools such as Rough Rock (a demonstration school) and St. Francis (a mission school transferred to BIA funding). The Coalition of Indian Controlled School Boards was founded by Indian controlled schools and schools which wished to become Indian controlled. The Coalition provided networking, training, technical assistance and worked on Congressional bills which would make it easier for Indian Tribes and communities to control the education of their young. The Indian Education Act of 1972 provided support for early control efforts. In 1975, the PL 93-638, the Indian Self-Determination Act, not only provided a mechanism for that control, but stated that the government had failed in Indian education and that Indians needed to be given a chance to make their own education work.

In the late 1970's, the Coalition disbanded because of lack of financial support. It had become dependent on Federal programs that were not necessarily in tune with its mission and were competitive from year to year.

In January 1982 a meeting of Contract schools was held in Denver where the need for a new organization of contract schools was discussed and plans formulated. The organization was called the Association of Contract/Tribal Schools and the purposes were set as follows:

A - advocacy
C - communication
T - technical assistance
S - service

On March 31 - April 2, 1982, 87 delegates from Indian controlled schools and Tribal education programs attended the organizational conference in Reno, Nevada. The Board of Directors was elected, bylaws established and objectives outlined.

Since that time ACTS has had 14 national conferences and numerous regional meetings to provide School Board training and address issues.

In July of 1986 ACTS was awarded 501 (c) 3 nonprofit status by the Internal Revenue Service.

In 1987 ACTS changed its name to the Association of Community Tribal Schools since it had helped develop a new law, PL 100-297, which allowed Indian communities to assume greater control of their schools through a grants process.

Membership

In 1994-95 there are 85 BIA funded schools that are operated by Tribes or Indian communities under contract or grant. Of these, 30 are paid up members of ACTS for Fiscal Year 94 and 25 others were members in the past. Many of the schools who are not members take part in ACTS training, conferences and information sessions.

Although dues are on a sliding scale based on enrollment and range from $775 a year to a peak of $1500 a year, schools give lack of funds as the main reason for not joining. Some schools are members of the Association of Navajo Controlled School Boards or the National Indian School Boards Association. ACTS works closely with both these groups.

Paid members for the first half of Fiscal Year 1994 are distributed from Washington to Michigan and from North Dakota to New Mexico. The FY 94 membership list is:

Twin Buttes Day School, ND	**K-8**
Menominee Tribal School, WI	**K-8**
White Shield, ND	**K-12**
St. Francis Indian School, SD	**K-12**
Pinon Dormitory	**K-5**
Laguna Middle School, NM	**6-8**
Dibe Yazhi Habitiin Olta, NM	**K-8**
Little Singer Community School, AZ	**K-6**
Quileute Tribal School, WA	**K-8**
Chief Leschi School, WA	**K-12**
Lummi Tribal School, WA	**K-12**
Circle of Nations, ND	**4-9**
Noli Tribal School, CA	**7-12**
Wounded Knee District School, SD	**K-8**
Kickapoo Nation School, KS	**K-12**
Sho-Ban School District #512, ID	**6-12**
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa School, WI	**K-12**
Alamo Navajo School, NM	**K-12**
Rock Point Community School, AZ	**K-12**
Rough Rock Demonstration School, AZ	**K-12**
Hannahville Indian School, MI	**K-12**
Loneman Day School, SD	**K-8**
Oneida Tribal School, WI	**K-8**
Tiospa Zina Tribal School, SD	**K-12**
Takini School, SD	**K-12**
Crow Creek Reservation School, SD	**K-12**
Pierre Indian Learning Center, SD	**1-8**
Tate Topa Community School, ND	**K-8**
Little Wound School, SD	**K-12**
Cherokee Central School, NC	**K-12**

Accomplishments

ACTS represents and provides services to Indian controlled contract and grant schools by:

- Holding an annual national conference for School Board training and discussion of issues.
- Holding regional conferences during the year on important legislation or issues.
- Testifying before Congressional committees on appropriations, laws and Office of Indian Education Programs (BIA) organization and management.
- Coordinating with other Indian groups to provide unified input on Indian education. These groups include:
  - National Indian School Board Association
  - National Indian Education Association
  - National Congress of American Indians
  - National Advisory Council on Indian Education
  - Association of Navajo Community Controlled School Boards
  - Dakota Area Community Tribal Schools
  - Minneapolis Area Community Tribal Schools

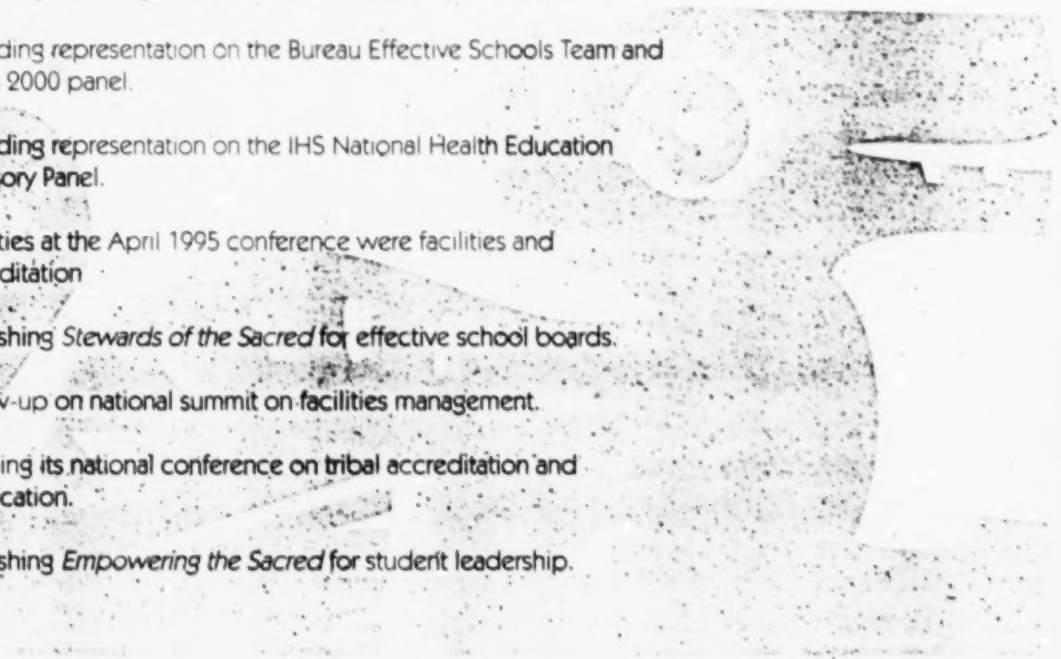
Some accomplishments over the past years:

- Presented a report to Congress on the status of Indian controlled schools (1983).
- Operated a national contract to train school board members at Indian controlled schools (1984).
- Assisted the National Indian School Board Association with national and regional training of all Indian school boards since 1985.
- Developed the Tribally Controlled Grants Act (PL100-297) which provides more local control, less paperwork, a better funding system for schools and administrative cost grants.
- Provided input and testimony to Congress on appropriations, legislation and programs at least annually over the past 14 years.
- Helped develop formulas for funding for basic operations, operations and maintenance and administrative costs for Indian controlled schools.
- Wrote issues papers on areas such as forward funding, school closures, academic standards, attendance boundaries and measurement of performance.
- Gave input to other Indian organizations about Indian controlled education by providing speakers at national meetings and members to sit on special committees and task forces such as BEST, Goals 2000 panel for BIA, OIEP.

- Endorsed a self-insurance plan for schools.
- Assisted with the BIA's implementation of the Effective Schools' school improvement efforts.
- Provided on-site technical assistance to numerous schools in areas such as:
  - teacher recruitment
  - planning
  - philosophy of control
  - School Board roles
  - teaching and learning
  - contract applications
  - grant applications
  - parent involvement.
  - Superintendent/Principal role
- Assisted with the revision of PL 93-638 amendments for school contracting.
- Insured that Chapter I of PL 100-297 considered Tribal Schools as LEA's.
- Advocated and developed the legislation for the White House Conference on Indian Education.
- Held a national youth empowerment seminar

Currently ACTS is involved with:

- providing technical assistance to Congressional Committees on the reauthorization and appropriations.
- reviewing/reporting on its 5 Year Plan passed by the Board in 1990.
- providing representation on the Bureau Effective Schools Team and Goals 2000 panel.
- providing representation on the IHS National Health Education Advisory Panel.
- priorities at the April 1995 conference were facilities and accreditation
- publishing *Stewards of the Sacred* for effective school boards.
- follow-up on national summit on facilities management.
- planning its national conference on tribal accreditation and certification.
- publishing *Empowering the Sacred* for student leadership.



Governance and Administration

The Association of Community Tribal Schools is a grass roots organization controlled by its member school boards which keeps administration to a minimum so as to concentrate on its MISSION AND PURPOSES.

Voting membership in ACTS is limited to Indian school boards that have either contracted their school operation under PL 93-638 or obtained a grant under PL 100-297. These two vehicles give Indian school boards fiscal responsibility and authority to operate their schools.

At the annual meeting of ACTS in the Spring of each year directors are selected by the voting membership. School board members, Executive Directors, Superintendents or other chief executive officers of the schools are eligible to serve on the Board. The Board members represent regions:

1 - Northwest 2 - Southwest 2 - Central 2 - East

Directors serve two year terms and four directors are elected one year and three directors the next year to provide for continuity. The Board of Directors has full corporate powers and holds four quarterly meetings besides the annual meeting. One of the key powers of the Board is to select an Executive Director.

The Executive Director serves at the discretion of the Board and performs the following duties: coordinates Board meetings, provides training and technical assistance to schools, keeps financial records, keeps schools informed of educational trends and laws, coordinates with other national organizations, solicits operating funds, solicits members and arranges for an annual audit. The Executive Director position has varied from 10% time to full-time since 1982.

Currently the Executive Director position is filled at 10% time by Dr. Roger Bordeaux, Superintendent of Tiospa Zina Tribal School who has been Executive Director since 1984. He is a graduate of St. Francis Indian School (a contract school since 1970) and received his masters and doctorate in EDAD from the University of South Dakota, Vermillion.

Association of Community Tribal Schools

Board of Directors

Term	
94-95	Judi Ami, Superintendent, Tate Topa School, Ft. Totten, ND
94-95	Jimmie C. Begay, Director, Rock Point Community School, AZ
94-95	Tom Miller, Board President, Superintendent, Hannahville Indian School, Hannahville, MI
95-96	Ernest Dick, Board President, Rough Rock Community School, Rough Rock, AZ
95-96	Don Weisen, Board Secretary/Treasurer, Superintendent, Lac Courte Oreilles, WI
94-95	Dennis LaPointe, Board Member, Chief Leschi School, WA
95-96	Gilbert Robertson, Board Vice President, Pierre Indian Learning Center, Pierre, SD
Executive Director	Dr. Roger Bordeaux, Superintendent, Tiospa Zina Tribal School, Sisseton, SD

Association of Community Tribal Schools

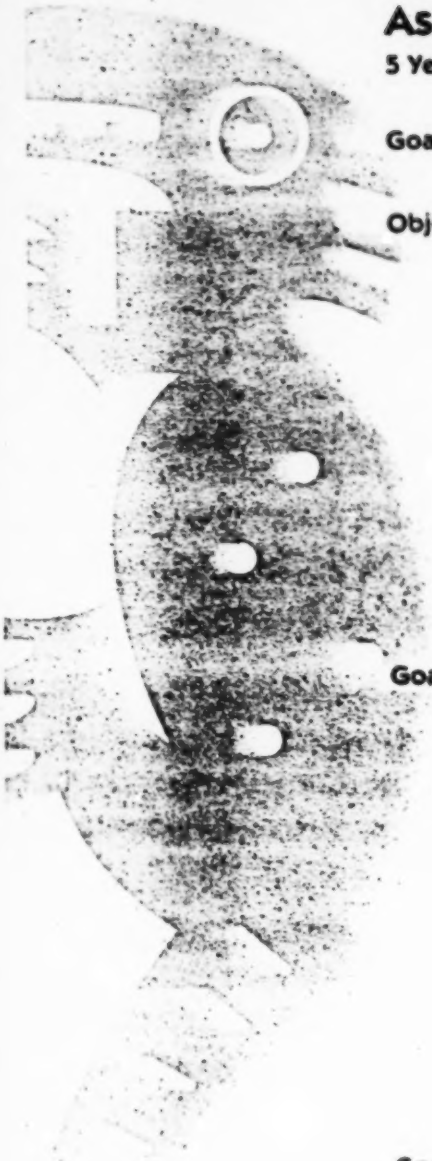
Budget Fiscal Year 94
July 1, 1993 - June 30, 1994

Revenue

Membership		20,000
Donations		1,000
Interest		1,500
Carryover		10,000
	TOTAL	32,500

Expenses

Personnel		- 0 -
Consultants		15,000
* Administration	10,000	
* 5 Year Plan	5,000	
Fringe		- 0 -
Travel		3,000
Supplies (duplication, postage)		2,500
Audit		1,000
Board Meetings		3,000
Annual Meeting		5,000
Other		3,000
	TOTAL	32,500



Association of Community Tribal Schools

5 Year Plan - 1990 - 1995

Goal I **To Promote Advancement of Indian Controlled Quality Education**

Objectives

1.1 Increase by 30% the **CONTEMPORARY CURRICULUM SERVICES** and options for ACTS schools

1.2 Increase by 30% **FUNDING REQUIRED** by ACTS schools to meet goals and objectives

1.3 Provide 100% of ACTS schools with training/technical assistance in **FORMING AND IMPLEMENTING LOCAL EDUCATION POLICY**

1.4 Provide 100% of ACTS schools with TA on developing **LOCALLY DETERMINED CRITERIA FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION**

Goal 2 **To Increase the Leadership Capacities of ACTS Schools**

2.1 Provide **LEADERSHIP/MANAGEMENT TRAINING** to 100% of **ACTS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS**

2.2 Provide relevant community based **CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION TRAINING** to 30% of ACTS schools **INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL**

2.3 Provide **LEADERSHIP TRAINING** to a minimum of 5% of **STUDENTS** at 100% of ACTS schools

2.4 Provide **LEADERSHIP TRAINING** to **SCHOOL BOARD/COMMUNITY MEMBERS** from 100% of ACTS schools

Goal 3 **To Acquire Funds to Increase Leadership Capabilities of Indian Controlled Education**

3.1 Increase **ACTS MEMBERSHIP** (FY 89) by 75%

3.2 Establish four (4) **REGIONAL OFFICES**

3.3 **Seek $150,000 from private and public agencies** to assist in meeting goals and objectives of ACTS

3.4 **COORDINATE AND COMMUNICATE WITH 50 REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS** who support the purposes of ACTS

Funding Priorities

* ACTS network and communications improvement	$30,000
* Review of accreditation requirements to assist with local criteria	$60,000
* Regional leadership retreats for School Boards, administrators and students	$100,000
* Regional Curriculum Institutes for Elementary Teachers	$120,000
* Regional training and technical assistance on local education policy formation and implementation	$60,000
* On-site student leadership training (5% of ACTS school students)	$85,000
* Annual conference support	$10,000
* ACTS Endowment	$300,000

References

Ms. Carmen Taylor — 406-883-3603
Executive Director
National Indian School Board Association

Dr. John Tippeconnic — 202-208-3550
Director, Office of Indian Education Programs
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Ms. Karen Funk — 202-783-6100
Legislative Liaison
National Indian Education Association

Mr. John Forkenbrock — 202-624-5455
Executive Director
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

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Internal Revenue Service **Department of the Treasury**

Washington, DC 20224

Person to Contact: David Daume
Telephone Number: (202) 566-4524

Refer Reply to: OP:E:EO:R:4
Date: 30 JUL 1986

Association of Contract/Tribal Schools
c/o Roger Bordeaux
Star Route 3, Suite 333
Pierre, SD 57501

Employer Identification Number: 74-2259843
Key District: Chicago
Accounting Period Ending: September 30
Foundation Status Classification: 509(a)(2)

Dear Applicant:

Based on information supplied and assuming your operations will be as stated in your application for recognition of exemption, we have determined you are exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We have further determined that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of Code section 509(a), because you are an organization described in the section of the Code shown above.

If your sources of support, or your purposes, character, or method of operation change, please let your key district know so that office can consider the effect of the change on your exempt status and foundation status. Also, you should inform your key District Director of all changes in your name or address.

Unless specifically excepted, beginning January 1, 1984, you must pay taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) for each employee who is paid $100 or more in a calendar year. You are not required to pay tax under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Since you are not a private foundation, you are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, you are not automatically exempt from other federal excise taxes. If you have questions about excise, employment, or other federal taxes, contact your key District Director.

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in Code section 170. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522.

You are required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, only if your gross receipts each year are normally more than $25,000. If your gross receipts are not normally more than $25,000 we ask that you establish that you are not required to file Form 990 by completing Part I of that Form for your first tax year. Thereafter, you will not be required to file a return until your gross receipts normally exceed the $25,000 minimum. For guidance in determining if your gross receipts are "normally" not more than the $25,000 limit, see the instructions for the Form 990. If a return is required, it must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. There is a penalty of $10 a day, up to a maximum of $5,000, when a return is filed late, unless you establish, as required by section 6652 (d)(1), that the failure to file timely was due to reasonable cause.

You are not required to file federal income tax returns unless you are subject to the tax on unrelated business income under Code section 511. If you are subject to this tax, you must file an income tax return on Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return. In this letter we are not determining whether any of your present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513.

Please show your employer identification number on all returns you file and in all correspondence with the Internal Revenue Service.

We are informing your key District Director of this ruling. Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your exempt status and foundation status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

If you have any questions about this ruling, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown in the heading of this letter. For other matters, including questions concerning reporting requirements, please contact your key District Director.

Sincerely yours,
Milton Cerny
Chief, Exempt Organizations
Rulings Branch

(reproduction of original)

Audited Statement

ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY TRIBAL SCHOOLS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 1993 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1994

REVENUES:

MEMBERSHIP FEES	$27,675.20
REGISTRATION FEES	2,342.50
INTEREST INCOME	675.22
TOTAL REVENUES	$30,692.92

EXPENDITURES:

CONSULTANTS	$12,949.30
TRAVEL - AIRFARE & MILEAGE	3,453.50
TRAVEL - PER DIEM	1,055.79
BOARD & CORP. MEETINGS/EXPENSE	3,155.72
ADMINISTRATION	1,350.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	$21,964.31
EXCESS (DEFICIT) REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	8,728.61
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE AUDITED	17,207.42
ENDING FUND BALANCE	**$25,936.03**

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.